vulgar incidents of the life at home he left



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### A Guide for To-day.

It has been the view of American statesmen of the highest eminence and responsibility, notably the Hon. James G. BLAINE and the Hon. FREDERICK T. FRELINGHUYsen, that the Clayton-Bulwer Treaty was long ago deprived of its original validity through England's own acts of violation. Believing this to be true, and knowing that that unfortunate convention was a badge of American weakness, these sterling patriots devoted their official power and energy to giving to their conception of the case the diplomatic weight that should cause it to prevail, and make the Clayton-Bulwer Treaty fade out of consideration without a ripple of disturbance.

The Clayton-Bulwer Treaty was a blunder second only to that which missed putting the boundary line between the United States and Canada at latitude 54° 40".

Suppose, however, that BLAINE and FRE-LINGHUYSEN had been mistaken in their view of this important question, and that the Clayton-Bulwer Treaty is actually as full of life as ever. Would American statesmanship, as the time approaches for the actual work of building the Nicaragua Canal, have before it a duty more plain, more positive and more urgent than to obtain the Clayton-Buiwer Treaty's abrogation, so that the canal might be American in ownership and in control as well as Ameri-

To accomplish this, the State Department would be bound to strain every resource of national resolution and influence. And, while engaged in its task, it would be required to present as unwavering a front inopposition to the Construction Lobby clamoring for the building of the canal on any terms, as to the British Foreign Office hesitating to yield the advantages it had gained from us in our years of feebleness.

### The Significance of the Palace Revolution at Pekin.

When a telegram, sent from Pekin on Jan 25, announced that a boy nine years old named Ju Chun had been designated as the heir to the throne of the Celestial Empire, and that the present Emperor, Kwang Su, was expected to abdicate in his favor, conflicting explanations of the incident were forthcoming. The Chinese Minister at Washington was disposed to minimize the importance of the transaction, and denied that it portended any change in the foreign | it amounts to, was so manifestly unjust and or domestic policy of his country. On the other hand, despatches from Shanghai described the appointment of an heir-apparent and the intention imputed to the Empress Dowager of deposing the reigning sovereign and assuming the functions of Regent as a decisive victory for the reactionary party, a victory regarded with favor by the Manchus dwelling in China, but distasteful to the Chinese proper and especially to the natives of the relatively enlightened southern provinces. The latter interto have been correct, for, after some hesitation, the Empress Dowager has shown her hand, and, according to a telegram published this week, she has caused an edict to be issued, rescinding the measures previously taken with a view to educational reform, and declaring that the Confucian classics shall henceforth, as of old, constitute the only subjects at the official examinations of candidates for posts in the

That the death, deposition or compulsory abdication of Kwang Su, who is still the nominal ruler of China, will soon follow the selection of his successor is probable enough. Such an event will surprise nobody familiar with the unscrupulous career of the Empress Dowager. It is well known that TsI AN is the only surviving widow of the Emperor HIEN FUNG, who died in 1861, and was succeeded by his only son, Tung CHE. The Chinese Minister at Washington must have been incorrectly reported when he was made to say that Prince TUAN, the father of the boy Ju Chun, now made heirapparent, is a son of HIEN FUNG. That bovereign, as we have said, left but one son, and Prince Tuan must be a son of KWANG Su's predecessor, the Emperor TAOU KWANG, who "ascended on high" in 1850. It may be remembered that Tung CHE was only five years old when he nominally succeeded his father, HIEN FUNG, and that, for the following twelve years, the Government was in the hands of the two Empresses Dowager, of whom Tsi AN, the actual ruler of the Middle Kingdom, is the survivor. In 1873, TUNG CHE attained his majority and began ostensibly to rule, but he died without issue in 1875 under circumstances that | the use of alcohol in the arts. It has been | PER'S "communications" to Prof. Hyslor cast suspicion upon the present Empress Dowager. As, by the law, a Chinese Emperor's heir must be younger than he from whom the inheritance comes, Tung ries, beside \$1,900,000 for miscellaneous CHE, having no younger brothers, had to be succeeded by one of the sons of his father's available for the performance of the duty younger brothers. Of these brothers there had been five, HIEN TUNG himself being the fourth of the nine sons of the the Revenue Act of 1890 provided in simi-Emperor TAOU KWANG. The choice of the Empresses Dowager fell on the infant son of the Prince of Chung, seventh son of TAOU KWANG, which infant son became Emperor under the name of KWANG St. After a minority which, on various pre-

texts, was unusually protracted, Kwang Su was permitted by the present Empress Dowager, who, after the death of her co-regent, had been sole mistress of China, to assume the sovereignty. No sooner eld he evince, however, a determination to reorganize the Chinese system of education by the adoption of Western methods and ideals, than he was compelled by a revolution within the palace to Invite the Empress Dowager to leave her his imperial functions. This compulsory a law with the execution of that law. invitation was regarded as tantamount to abdication, and the Empress Dowager has

nine-year-old son of Prince TUAN as the heir-apparent.

How are foreign powers likely to be

ffected by an incident which, apparently, consolidates the power of the Empress Dowager for many years to come? The question may be answered if we note which powers are likely to be benefited by the triumph of the reactionary party in China. Obviously, those European States which have already combined to dismember China-we refer, of course, to Russia, France and Germany -cannot desire their victim's no further, and even the fragments already the other hand, the United States, Great Britain and Japan, which honestly desire the maintenance of the "open door," would have much to gain if China should follow Japan's example and become thorciples. So clearly, indeed, is it for the interests of those foreign countries, which desire to stop the mutilation of China, that the Chinese party of progress and its friends in the imperial family should not be annihilated, that the Mikado is said to have been urged by Chinese reformers to interpose through diplomatic channels in behalf of the unfortunate Kwang St. The fact that the Chinese Emperor's appointment of an heir has not yet been succeeded by an announcement of his death may be possibly due to the Mikado's intercession.

There is reason to apprehend that the palace revolution at Pekin, which has put changes in Chinese educational methods, may prove unfavorable to the railway projects to which European and American capitalists have, of late, given a good deal of attention. Meanwhile, however, we learn by a telegram from Pekin, dated Feb. 12, that, owing perhaps to Japan's intervention the Emperor Kwang Su is not yet dead, but will on Feb. 19 go through the form of holding a diplomatic reception.

#### An Extraordinary Legacy From the Wilson Revenue Act.

Here is a story of the nullification of law by the Executive Department of the United States Government, and of consequent wrong to many American citizens, which we believe to be without parallel in the record of legislation. The case has all the elements of public interest.

When the Wilson Revenue bill of 1894 was enacted in the second term of President CLEVELAND, Mr. CARLISLE was the Secretary of the Treasury. The Wilson bill raised the beverage tax on alcohol from ninety cents a proof gallon to \$1.10. The increase was advocated and enacted as a revenue

measure. But alcohol not only enters the croph agus as a beverage; it also enters as a raw material into the products of numerous American manufacturing industries, products for export as well as for domestic consumption. To force the American manufacturer to pay for the alcohol which he uses in the arts or in medicinal preparations a beverage tax of nine hundred per cent. or more, for that is what against public policy, that special provision was made for the legitimate interests of the manufacturer in Section 61 of the Wilson Act. This section was added to the bill during its passage through the Senate, at the instance, if we remember rightly, of Senator Hoar of Massachusetts. It was in force until July 3, 1896, when Congress repealed it:

"Any manufacturers finding it necessary to use pretation of the palace revolution turns out | to be prescribed by the Secretary of the Treasury, and on satisfying the Collector of Internal Revenue for the district wherein he resides or carries on business that he has complied with such regulations and has used such alcohol therein, and exhibiting and delivering up the stamps which show that a tax has been paid thereon, shall be entitled to receive from the Trasury of the United States a rebate or repay-

> We have given the exact language of the section, because the surprising situation which has ensued depends upon the technical construction of the words, and not upon any question of equity or disputed facts.

> Under this distinct statutory provision, this contract between the United States Government and the American manufacturers, the latter proceeded to buy and use such alcohol as they needed in their respective industries, paying temporarily, as they thought, the nine hundred per cent, tax thereon. In not a single case, it is said was the price to the consumer raised on account of the apparent increase in the cost of alcohol. On the contrary, manufacturers reduced the prices of their products, and in many instances actually sold them at cost, relying for their profit upon the rebate of the alcohol tax, which the law plainly promised them.

> They never got a cent of that rebate. In spite of the mandatory direction to the Secretary of the Treasury to prepare the regulations under which the tax temporarily collected should be returned to the manufacturers, Mr. CARLISLE refused to execute the law.

The excuse given for his astonishing policy of nullification was that there was no specific appropriation to enable the Intershown since that this pretext was wholly without foundation. The appropriations of any which we can recall. for that year included \$1,700,000 for salaexpenses, and every dollar of the same was which Section 61 of the Act of 1894 devolved upon the Secretary. Section 42 of intellectual capacity. If Prof. Hyslop's lar although less mandatory terms for the prescription of regulations to enable the American wine makers to enjoy their legal exemption from a tax on the alcohol used by them to fortify their wines. There was no specific appropriation in that case, either; yet Secretary Windom promptly executed the law, as was his duty, and it has been executed ever since, down to the present day. Mr. Carlisle was the first and only Secretary of the Treasury who ever undertook to veto a section of a tax law enacted by the Congress Constitutionally invested with the power to say what shall be taxed and the intelligence they had on earth. Accordwhat exempted from taxation. He was the | ingly, we must conclude either that Prof first Secretary of the Treasury to set up the HysLop has been fooled by Mrs. PIPER and theory that the ultimate power of taxation | Mr. Hopgson, or that there is a decadence retirement and to cooperate with him in or exemption is with the officer charged by of intelligence in the other world so great

The real reasons influencing Mr. CAR- from idiocy. LISLE can only be conjectured. Did the seems, however, that she feels insecure so long as Kwang Su lives, and it has been predicted that we would soon hear of his death. As a matter of fact, the Emperor's poor health and alleged inability to conduct the business of State, is the pretext penditures that impelled Secretary Carbeen since, as she was before Kwang Su's Secretary partake of the fiercely suspicious | trivial incidents of their earthly existence

given for the appointment of Ju Chun, the LIBLE, in deflance of law and of manifest right, to hold on to the six or seven millions which the manufacturers paid in as a matter of form, in good faith, under Section 61, on the strength of their Government's promise to return them the money

thus paid? These questions are of historical and psychological interest only. The Cleveland Administration impounded the manufacturers' alcohol tax by a process for which embezzlement scarcely seems too harsh a term, and the wronged and amazed manufacturers turned naturally to the courts for political, economical and military regener- relief. A test case was made up in the form ation. Against a regenerated China, the of a suit brought in the Court of Claims by dismembering process could be carried the Messrs. R. DUNLAP & Co., the New York hatters, for the return of about seized might have to be surrendered. On \$7,200 paid in internal revenue taxes on alcohol used by them in their business of hatmaking while Section 61 was in force. The Court of Claims found for the claimant on all questions of fact as to the use of the alcohol and the payment of the tax, but oughly reorganized upon European prin- dismissed the petition on the purely technical ground that because the rebates were to be paid only on alcohol used "under regulations to be prescribed by the Secretary of the Treasury," the alcohol had not been so used, Secretary CARLISIE having failed to prescribe regulations, and there could be no recovery.

Then the test case was appealed to the Supreme Court. The appellants were represented by distinguished counsel, among whom was the Hon, JOSEPH H. CHOATE. The broader Constitutional aspects of the restion were ably presented, but were not taken into consideration by the Court. It would not be profitable to discuss here an end to the prospect of stimulating the opinion by which the Supreme Court, by a bare majority of one, four Justices dissenting, held that the original failure of Secretary CARLISLE to respect the mandatory provision of Section 61 constituted a technical bar excluding these manufacturers from the remedy which is equitably theirs in the opinion of all men, and which would be legally theirs if the Secretary had obeyed the law,

A petition for a rehearing in the case of ROBERT DUNLAP & Co. has been denied. Another test case has been prepared, in which the American Aristotype Company is to represent the common interests of all the manufacturers who paid the alcohol tax at beverage rates and have failed to get their promised rebate. And to prevent the interposition a second time of the ghost of Secretary Carlisle, shutting out wronged citizens from the remedy to which they are justly entitled, bills have been introduced n both Houses of Congress, in the Senate by Senator PLATT of Connecticut, and in the House by Representative Russell, pro viding as follows:

"That the failure of the Secretary of the Treasury to prescribe regulations for the use of alcohol in the arts and in medicinal and other like compounds, as required by Section 61 of the Revenue Act of Aug 28, 1894, shall not operate as a defence on the part of the United States, to any suit of a manufacture under said act brought in any court of the United States.

It will be observed that this measure of obvious justice appropriates no money. It merely opens the way to the adjudication of legitimate and equitable claims of American manufacturers in twenty or more branches of industry. They have paid into he Treasury six millions or so, on the pledge of the statute that the money should be returned. Not one dollar of the six millions was intended by Congress to be withheld by the Government from its rightful owner. The money is locked up in the Treasury solely by the technical proposition that the failure of an executive officer to prepare regulations is a bar to recovery. It must be borne in mind that when the recent taxes for war revenue were imposed by law and ers of proprietary articles, the Government held that the delay in issuing regulations was no bar to the legality of the taxes or to the practical collection of the same. It is a rule that should work both ways.

The bill ought to be reported promptly and passed unanimously. We do not see how any Senator or Representative can fail to see the importance of asserting the principle that the taxing power is with Congress, and that with Congress, and not with the Secretary of the Treasury, is the decision as to what shall be taxed and what ex empted. Nor do we see how any honorable man in Congress can vote to make the United States Government the embezzler of five or six million dollars properly be longing to private citizens of the United

## "Spirits" Without Intelligence.

The silly triviality of the "communica tions" through Mrs. PIPER, upon which Prof. Hyslop relies as evidence of a spiritual existence, does not lessen their value as such proof in the estimation of a correspondent of THE SUN of yesterday. It is noticeable, however, that they are only a few hits among many failures of the "me dium," as confessed by him, to identify in any way the alleged spirits by everyday details of the sort. Inasmuch as these so called communications with the other world have been going on now for fifty years, it is rather remarkable that the thousands of "spirits" consulted have not by this time got along further than such childish methods of revealing themselves They have made no progress in the art since ternal Revenue Bureau to supervise properly | the days of the Fox sisters, and Mrs. Pi are even in the lowest plane of intelligence

Nothing in the whole volume of "spir itualistic" revelations from the beginning is suggestive of an intelligence superior to mortal knowledge or which even approaches that of human beings of average "spirit" father could think of no more convincing way of identifying himself to his son than by making inquiries about his pen knife, his broken fence, his delinquent taxes his neighbor's dog and other matters of th sort, either the deceased gentleman has ret rograded into childishness in the spiritua state or the son must have been humbugged

by the "medium" and her manager. If spirits had found a way of commun cating with mortals, they would have convinced everybody of the reality of their existence long before this, unless they have lost in the "spirit world" every spark of that the inhabitants are not far removed

It is remarkable, too, that while the most

behind him. If he communicates with his friends or the public he tells of what is happening to him in the novel scenes where he is, not of what he used to eat for breakfast before he went away. But the "spirits" do nothing of the sort. Passing from a material to an immaterial existence would seem to be a journey which would absorb the thought and attention of the traveller, so. that, being full of it, he would be sure to describe the new and strange world to his friends who remained tied down by natural conditions, whenever he had the opportunity to communicate with them; with the result that by this time, from thousands of "spiritual communications," we should have a pretty accurate map of the spiritual world and a great mass of most interesting information concerning its inhabitants and the manner of their lives. The "spirits,"

however precise may be their remembrance

of even the pettiest details of their long-

past earthly existence, do not seem to have

been enough impressed by the incidents

of their present existence to refer to them

at all. Their highfalutin general talk about

it tells no more than the feeblest imagina-

tions among them might easily have conceived before they died. Of course, such witnesses can have no standing with sensible people. They are too dull and stupid to go on the witness stand. The testimony which comes through the "mediums," instead of furnishing evidence of an intelligent personal existence beyond the grave, tends rather to convince anybody believing it that intelligence, as we know it, passes away at death. Mr. Hodoson, Mrs. Piper's manager, is a clever fellow. Why does he not teach her to do better?

### Why Not the Welland?

While the Hon. JOHN HAY was getting from Great Britain all that he asked, why did he not procure the neutralization in time of war as in time of peace, of the important little waterway known as the Welland Canal?

Why did he not persuade Great Britain to join with us in guaranteeing that the Welland Canal shall be open to the warships of England's enemy in time of war to which England is a party?

It is true that the Welland Canal is in one sense a part of Great Britain's coast line. So will the American isthmian canal be part of ours.

## The Money-Making Moth.

The hearings before the Gypsy Moth Investigation Committee of the Massachusetts Legislature continue to show that humor and a frugal mind have not departed from Massachusetts. The humorists pald to exterminate the moth spared it and themselves, and diffused a genial light of comic opera over all their operations. A Woburn inspector of gypsy moths and gypsy moth destroyers testified that a hearing had been packed by the latter, who take great interest in having the "work" continued. At this hearing the Mayor of Woburn made an impassioned speech in favor of going on with the work. The witness heard him say after the hearing that he was grateful he "had not been asked to describe a gypsy moth, as he could

not tell one from an elephant." The inspectors and the men liked to unbend. Sometimes they would chase squirrels. Sometimes they would play cards. Plenty of leisure for us and of mercy to the moths seems to have been the motto of the force. One special inspector told his men that a committee of the Legislature was coming to visit "the work." So he kept a part "for exhibition purposes," not allowing the men to clear it. The comimpressed.

A South Boston witness who had "loafed away his time" while on "the work," said that one officer of high degree was on a vacation most of the time-which was the proper spirit. Prying "spotters" who followed the workmen of the "work," were stoned or "rocked," as the more classic phrase is. In a place in Waltham the destroyers fleeted the time as in the golden age, drenching themselves with cider all day long. Naturally these fortunate laborers "don't want the moth destroyed." They do work faithfully at wood cutting sometimes, however, a habit which contributes curiously to the widening of the moth territory, as this testimony shows:

"JOHN J. HAYDEN of Burlington had asked what noth looked like. He wanted to get some to put on his place if the committee's men would cut his wood for him. JOSEPH MAGUIRE of Woburn had asked the same question, and the next year his place was found to be infested."

Thus the farmer gets his wood cut free and the destroyer gets occasional labor to distract his leisure; and the gypsy moth is 'planted" cleverly here and there.

To complete the happiness of the scene, the questions to be asked in the civil service examinations were given beforehand to candidates for a place in the "work;" and a former employee said that he had been discharged for trying to cure an ulcerated tooth with whiskey. Doubtless it was felt that cider was the only justifiable drink in an occupation so essentially idyllic as that of "exterminating" the gypsy moth.

The Hon. JIM JONES of Arkansas has his usual quartan fever of hopefulness, and is preticting freely. "The trend of political events is distinctly favorable to Democracy." says hopeful Jones. We congratulate him upon acquiring that beautiful word "trend." Hundreds of men live, in apparent happiness, upon that word. It will be a comfort to Mr. Jones in the dark days of November. At the same time, we would respectfully ask him to consider the merits of "initiative and refer endum." It has helped in some cases where

We understand that in imitation of the Topeka experiment to be made by the Rev. Mr. SHELDON, Gen. SAMBO BOWLES Will, on April 15, put his Springfield Republican into the hands of a syndicate of thinkers composed of the Hon. GAMALIEL BRADPORD, the Hon. DANIEL H. CHAMBERLAIN and the Hon WILLIAM LLOYD GARRISON, For one week these somewhat militant friends of man will write everything in the paper. By this means Gen. Bowles hopes to get rid of a few thousand of the letters with which they choke him at present. But ten daily newspapers, each with ten pages as large as all New England. would not suffice to hold the epistolary output of Mr. BRADFORD alone

Sustains the Molineux Verdict. To THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-SET: Allow me to suggest to all those who were not in accord with the Molineux verdict that they should not let the cause them to forget that there were 2,200,000 words of testimony taken before those twelve

LORD ROBERTS ON THE MOVE.

Lord Roberts has at length begun his operations for the relief of Kimberley in the manner anticipated yesterday. A comprehensive turning movement commenced on Monday by the seizure of Dekils Drift on the Riet River west of Jacobsdahl by Gen. Freuch whose name appears for the first time as being in command of the mounted division formed from the regular cavalry and mounted Colonial contingents with horse artillery. Gen. French appears to have moved on Tuesday from Dekils Drift on to Klip Drift twenty-five miles distant on the Modder River with the main body of his force, having sent one of his three brigades to make a feint at Rondeval Drift, four miles west of Klip Drift. Rondeval Drift was seized, as also a drift between it and Klip Drift. The force that crossed at the latter occupied the hills north of the Molder River, capturing three of the Boer laagers; the brigade sent to Rondeval Drift is reported to have captured two others. From the description given of Gen. French's movements their rapidity appears to have taken the Boers by surprise, as no fighting of any consequence seems to have taken place, and the capture of so many of their camps seems to indicate that the commandos to which they belonged were absent in some other direction. The Sixth Infantry Division was at Waterval on the north side of the Riet River, moving up in support of the cavairy, and the Seventh Division was at Dekils Drift ready to go forward. No details are yet to hand of the composition of these new organizations, there having been apparently a complete dislocation of the old commands, and a general reorganization for the special work

The trying character of the marching is illustrated by the fact that the first day four fficers and fifty-three men had to be sent back in ox-wagons to the railway, prostrated by heat exhaustion

The object of this new movement is apparently to gain possession of the direct road from Jacobsdahl to Kimberley, so avoiding the strongly fortified Boer positions on the originally intended line of march from Modder River Camp. The distance of Klip Drift, where Gen. French has crossed the Modder River, to Kimberley is about twenty miles, and there is no information to lead to the belief that the Boers have any in trenched positions on that road except their works immediately round Kimberley. Assuming that the immediate objective of Gen French is Kimberley, there is no reason why the relief of that place should not be effected in the next day or two, unless the Boer General is able to recover from the first surprise and has the force to arrest the forward march of the British column.

The Boers that have been holding the posi tions between the Modder River Camp and Kimberley are now entirely cut off from their communications with Jacobsdahl, from where they derived the bulk of their supplies, and if they do not succeed in arresting Gen. French's advance, will have to retire to the westward and leave the way open for a movement up the railway line from Modder River Camp to Kimberley. The reported expulsion of the loyal inhabitants from Barkly West was probably car ried out in view of the possible abandonment of the investment of Kimberley; and should it be unable to return into the Free State south of Kimberley, Gen. Cronje's force must fall back to the northwest by the road from Radloff to Barkly West across the Vaal River, or round to the north of Kimberley if the British mounted troops are not ahead of it.

The first impression resulting from a careful examination of the situation as conveyed in Lord Roberts's despatches is that the Boers have been caught at a serious disadvantage from which they will have considerable trouble in extricating themselves, and that if the conditions permit Gen. French to continue his movements with the same celerity that he has executed those of the first two days, a long step has been taken toward transferring the field of operations into the Transvaal territory proper. The Free State has now been definitely invaded at two points, by Gen. French and by the occupation of Zoutpan Drift by the troops from Orange River Bridge Camp. The accounts from the Boer side of the events since Monday will be of great interest and enable a clearer judgment to be formed of the probable results of Lord Roberts's first

The next news from Rensburg and Sterkthe situation at those points, as the Free State forces now across the Orange River are likely to be called on to move north for the de-fence of their own territory, especially as a British movement into the southwest corner of the Free State from the west seems likely. Gen. Buller's retirement behind the Tugela appears complete, as his cavalry are reported reconnoitring in the neighborhood of Spring-field from where he moved his headquarters a few days agg to Chieveley. few days ago to Chieveley.

## THE CONVICTION.

#### Indignant Inquiries of a Distinguished Wom an Produced by the Molineux Trial. TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: As

a tribunal ever accessible to appeals for justice. the following inquiries are submitted, with the earnest hope that you will give them responsive consideration: Is it possible, if no new trial is granted to Roland Molineux, that the voice of the people will not be raised in effective protest at the

carrying out of the sentence to be pronounced Is it possible as is alleged by certain legal authorities, that the enormous sums of money already expended (mainly on empirical and inconclusive testimony brought by the prosecution) will become a potent factor to operate

against the granting of a new trial? Is it possible that, although an accused person is not, in law, compelled to bring witnesses to prove his innocence, the jury's decision (largely influenced by such omission) will be allowed to stand unchallenged by the universal sentiment for justice and for fair

Is it possible that the numberless infractions of law, as also of decency, committed by the prosecution will pass unscourged alike by the profession and by society at large?

Is it possible (pursuant of the above inquiry that no voice of indignant protest, of exasperated sensibility, will be raised on the part of romanhood against the prosecuting attorney's most unmanly and malignant attack upon a woman present at the recent trial, but, in reality, unconnected with the case in hand, exept by the admission of unsupported evidence at first ruled out but afterward foisted in by awless violence? And, still pursuing this juestion, is it possible that women (through their silence on the subject) will allow the precedent to creep in by which any one of their number may, at any time, become the poweress target for such calumnious utterances as may seem to serve best the purpose of a bana oratory that knows not even the name of chivalry? Is it possible that a line of treatment and language which, ordinarily, the Court would not permit to be used in the case of a known courtesan may pass unrebuked, when the sufferer is a deeply afflicted woman with whose life and conduct the Court has repeatedy asserted it has nothing to do?

Is it possible? NEW YORK, Feb. 13.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: The perfect impartiality with which THE SUN publishes comments on the extraordinary Molineux case helps to keep many minds free from the confused condition some are in who forget the simple fact that no direct evidence has een brought against the accused. Everything offered by the prosecution begs a question; and, euriously indeed, not the all-important question, Did Molineux write certain words on certain piece of wrapping paper? but, Did he. Molineux, do some or all of several other things that were improper, or dastardly, or criminal? Particularity, mere opinion (expert testimony is this and nothing more) was depended on to confuse a case where descriptive details of chirographic configurations wearisomely extended themselves into a million words; but shall a man go convicted of murder through inference derived incidentally?

A. B.

THE OVERSHADOWING QUESTION.

Public Opinion Concerning American Con-

trol of an American Canal. TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: As stated n an editorial article in THE SUN to-day, some of the advocates of the surrender of American control argue that the fortification of the Nicaragua Canal would be ineffective against a powerful enemy at war with the United States. The fact of the presence in the treaty of the clause by which the United States agree to forfeit their right in this respect is, it seems to me, conclusive evidence that England doesn't agree with them.

The Administration is anxious that the treaty should pass. Now, if as it claims, the right of the United States to fortify the canal is a matter of minor importance, why do they not bend their energies in an endeavor to induce England to see it in that light, and have the clause on this point omitted from the treaty. instead of giving notice that the treaty must stand or fall in its present shape? THE SUN characterizes the treaty as a blun-

der. That is a charitable view to take of it. I consider it a premeditated crime of stupendous magnitude, the incentive being an uncontrollable itch on the part of somebody here to toady to a country that is even now bustly engaged in strengthening its fortifications on every side of us and is contemplating further steps in that direction

I trust that it will not be necessary for Republicans to consider the alternative of voting for the Democratic nominee in 1900, but that the Administration will realize the condition of affairs while there is yet time. REPUBLICAN. NEW YORK, Feb. 14.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: Your orcible editorials on the Hay-Pauncefote treaty cannot but awaken even the most indifferent and apathetic to the fact that the safe-guarding of our national interests imperatively demands the defeat of that convention in its present form. The case is really so simple that it seems almost absurd to argue about it, but I, for one, am desirous of publicly signifying my approval of your editorial utterances on the subject, and I trust you will not fall to follow up the matter closely and strengthen the impression you have already made on the public mind by further vigorous and clear presentations of every phase of the

It would seem almost incredible that men in Washington should calmly contemplate and help along such a stupendous piece of national folly. Rather than that, may the canal project be buried never to be resurrected!

But I hope and trust that such newspapers as yours will continue to fire broadsides of common sense into the camps of idlocy where such schemes of surrender and humiliation are being hatched out. EMILE PICKHARDT. ISLINGTON, Mass., Feb. 13.

To THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: Governor Roosevelt is right. If the United States is to construct the Nicaragua Canal and supply the money to build it, then I say the United States should control it and be at liberty to close it in time of war to an enemy. The idea of joint control is preposterous. Would England keep the Straits of Gibraltar open to an enemy in case of war, who by passing that way could endanger her coast? The Monroe Doctrine is too well established and respected by the peop'e of this country to permit the ratification of uch an agreement as the Hay-Pauncefote treaty now before the Senate. The people, rrespective of party, will never consent to have the United States invite any foreign government to join with us in the supervision of any enterprise that is purely American and within the Western hemisphere.

The canal built by Americans will be a national monument and a national defence, and we have no need of any foreign government to unite with us in the control of its affairs. Under no circumstances should we open an opportunity to any foreign power to interfere n America.

The Monroe Doctrine, so dearly held by all Americans, is in danger by the proposed Hay-Pauncefote Treaty. Our supremacy on the American continent must be recognized. Let our Senators take due notice. NEW YORK, Feb. 12. Tomo SARGENTICE.

## From the Topeka Capital.

Without a moment's hesitation the people are saying let the Nicaragua Canal be American money and be absolutely controlled by the people who build it without restrictions from any European power. No citizen of this Republic objects to the canal being neutral to all the governments of the world except in time of war. This canal, with such fortifications as our naval officers might suggest, would greatly increase the strength of our navy by uniting our fleets. If the United States is to remain sovereign in power on this continent, the waterway between the oceans should be absolutely under the control of our own Government. It is said by those who urge the ratification of the treaty in its present form that this nation can afford to ake its chances with other nations in time of war. To this it may be replied that there is no reason for taking any chances. and now is the time to settle the question. The people of this country do not advoeate a narrow, selfish policy. They do not de mand the exclusive control of the canal except during war with some other nation. For purcoses of trade and commerce it will be open to the world at all times. The idea of escorting the fleet of an enemy through a canal which our Government had built so that it might atack our coast cities on the Atlantic or Pacific and trey upon our commerce will strike the average citizen as preposterous. Our own fleet pursuing the enemy through the canal at such a time would not, under the treaty, be permitted to follow for twenty-four hours.

From the Baltimore American This country is not in need of help from any European country, and not likely to be, unless she quits her present policy and plunges into the maeistrom of European politics. It is humiliating to be beseeching Europe not to meddle with a purely American enterprise, especially when that enterprise has not gotten beyond the imagination of the people, and a site for it has not been selected. De Lesseps dug his canal across Suez and settled the diplomatic features long after the commerce of the world had begun to pass through it. The safest plan is to build a canal first, reserving all rights. To give away the latter before a spade has been struck into the soil may lead to serious embarrassment hereafter.

## Movements of Naval Vessels.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 14.-The training ship Lancaster, which left Caimanera yesterday, arrived at Santiago this morning and departed later in the day for Cienfuegos. The collier Casar left San Juan, Puerto Rico, to-day for Culebra Island with a cargo of coal for the flagship New York. The training ship Monon-gahela arrived at St. Kitts to-day.

Volume of "Man With No Hoe" To the Editor of The Sun-Sir: Five days ago The Sun published my note offering to read all poems written for "The Man With the Hoe" contest with reference to their publication. Already enough have reached me to make a volume. Many of them are good; some are gems. Before using them I want to see every one of the unsuccessful contributions. and I will ask that they be sent as early as March 1 I will again make the promise contained in my fire note, namely, to communicate with each writer be

fore any use is made of his or her poem. MARTIN L. BRUCE, M. D. BRATTLEBORO, Vt., Feb. 12.

To THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: At times nuch is said in public prints about the inability of women to earn a respectable living with ease or com-parative comfort. Here is an opportunity for some parative comfort. Here is an opportunity for some women to do so. About a year ago I received a printed circular that I could have my picture frames r gilded in the best manner without removing the same from my house. I sent for the woman (or lady, if you prefer) and gave her several to regild, which have turned out entirely satisfactory. I wrote her to come a few days ago and do some more, when I received a polite call from her, at which she regretted her inability to execute my new order inside of four months, having booked so many orders in advanced mine.

Exer York, Feb. 12.

MRS. PIPER AND PROP. JAMES. Tales, of a Rug, a Crib and a Gray-White

Cat Gravel the Psychologist TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: As a student of psychical research I am distressed by the incredulity evident in your editorial article on "A Professorship for Mrs. Piper." If you are not convinced by Prof. Hyslop of the super-

Harvard, the eminent psychologist and anti-imperialist. For him Mrs. Piper did wonderful things. For example: She told of my killing a gray-white cat with ether,

natural supernormality of Mrs. Piper, let me

call another witness, Prof. William James of

and described how it had "spun round and round" She was strong on the events in our nursery, and gave striking advice during our visit to her about the way to deal with certain "tantrums" of our second child-"little Billy Boy," as she called him, re-producing his nursery name. She told how the crib reaked at night, how a certain rocking chair creaked nysteriously, how my wife had heard footsteps on he stairs, &c.

She said that we had lost recently a rug and I a waistcoat. (She wrongly accused a person of stealing the rug, which was afterward found in the

Is it any wonder that Prof. James admits that Mrs. Piper's "trances have broken down, for my own mind, the limits of the admitted order of nature?" I quote him from Andrew Lang's "Making of Religion," pp. 149, 150. Mr. Lang BRYS:

It used to be admitted that, when "possessed," Mrs. Piper would cheat when she could—that is to say, she would make guesses, try to worm informaion out of her sitter, describe a friend of his, alive or dead, as "Ed." who may be Edgar, Edmund, E4ward, Edith or anybody. She would shuffle and re-peat what she had picked up in a former sitting with the same person; and the vast majority of her answers started from vague references to probable facts (as that an elderly man is an orphan) and se worked on to more precise statements.

# Mr. Lang quotes Prof. Macallister as writing of Mrs. Piper in the "Proceedings of the S. P. R.":

She is quite wideawake enough all through te profit by suggestions. I let her see a blotch of ink on my finger, and she said that I was a writer. . . Except the guess about my sister Helen, who is alive, there was not a single guess which was nearly right. Mrs. Piper is not ansethetic.

During the so-called trance, and if you note my private opinion, it is that the whole thing is an nposture, and a poor one.

But Prof. Macallister had not what Prof. James calls "the will to believe." Prof. Hyslop and Dr. Hodgson have lots of that. You must have it when you send your soul toward the incredible.

PSYCHE. NEW YORK, Feb. 13.

#### Appeal for the Christian Brothers. TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: I have received this letter from Brother Hill of Athy.

Will you kindly publish it? "MY DEAR MR. BEALIN: I have had many a conference with Mr. Knowles of Athy as to the best way of making our first appeal to the public since our introduction in Athy in 1861 a decided success. Mr. Knowles thinks with you if you would make yourself the medium of communication to further this object with our kith and kin in the United States, being also aware of your high personal regard for the Rev. Bros. J. S. O'Flanigan, T. J. Butler and the late Bro. F. L. Holland and other Christian Brothers who labored in Athy in the early '60s and subsequently. I know that this will be

a labor of love to you. "I need scarcely tell you, Mr. Bealin, that the sole support of the Christian Brothers in Ireland comes from the people. In no place in Ireland has the ideal system of education as given by the Christian Brothers obtained a greater triumph over the State, or so-called Model" system of education given by the English Government, than in Athy. The triumph of the Christian Brothers is not yet complete. and expansion is necessary in Athy, as "On-

ward and Upward" is their motto. "Curiously enough the English Government is at present waging a war of extermination against the Boers in South Africa because the grievances of Outlanders are not redressed within a very limited time. The Irish people have greater grievances and complained of them for centuries and still there is not a remote hope of seeing such grievances remedied.

"Through you I appeal to the former pupils of the Christian Brothers and to other friends of the Christian Brothers and to other Friends
of their system of education in the United
States for aid to carry out improvements in the
Christian Brothers' schools of Athy to carry
out an unequal contest in the department of
education, as they receive no State aid, their
system of education being denominational and
too racy of the soil to receive support from the
English Government.

system of education being denominational and too racy of the soil to receive support from the English Government.

"For the reasons set forth here, and for many others. I shall ask you to extend your love and influence to make our grand drawing of prizes a substantial success by asking the cooperation of our friends and countrymen in the United States. I am, yours respectfully.

"M. M. Hill, Brother Director.

"ATHY, Jan. 21."

Brother Hill's letter appeals to every member of the Irish race the world over. The story of how much the Brothers did for the youth of Irishand and how much they are doing would fill volumes. At present every child attending their schools is being taught the historic language of motherland, the Gaelic.

I will receive any donations which friends may desire to send, no matter how small the offering. Checks and Post Office orders should be made payable to the order of the Rev. Bro. Hill, Athy, County Kildare, Ireland.

30 West Twenty-ninth St., New York.

## Stinging Rebuke to Pettigrew.

From the Spirit of Dakota I am in receipt, under the Senatorial frank, of copy of one of R. F. Pettigrew's recent fulminations . In plain words, Mr. Pettigrew, Dakota is ashamed of you; ashamed that a man so devoid of patriotism should misrepresent her sentiment and stain her honor; ashamed with the keen, humiliating repug nance the Apostles felt toward Judas, the patriots as Yorktown for Benedict Arnold.

And when you speak, sir, of "the sixty boys from

South Dakota who lost their lives, conscripted into an unwilling service," you simply utter a lie. I I have letters from many of the boys, written from San Francisco, when their only fear was lest they be left behind; letters from Manila, when the insurrection instigated by domestic traitors was im minent; letters written from the firing line at Marilao, at Malolos, at Quingua Bridge, at Calumpit, at San Fernando; letters telling of other letters written to men in the ranks by a Senator of the United States who could stoop low nough to incite mutiny and counsel treason; letters, dozens of them, from the eighty who reenlisted in spite of the efforts of y arself and your abettors to debauch and dishonor them. I spent a month with them at San Francisco—where you dared not go heard from their own lips their views on the war, Aguinaldo and Pettigrew, conversed personally with many who had withdrawn their applications for discharge on learning whose hand was working the traitor's shell game. I have had personal interviews with, or letters from, more than seventy of hose who returned anxious to go back to the conflict in a Dakota veteran organization.

At all times, in every place where I have met or heard from them, they measured by your betrayal of Major Warne the depth of your interest in their welfare. Almost to a man they detect, under the ganze of hypocrisy, your sole purpose to embarrase the Government and aid its enemies, and their contempt for such perfidy is bounded only by their

apacity for contempt. Fortified with evidence of the facts whereof I rite, as the father of one of those precious dead of another who served out his time, reënlisted, and still chasing your model patriot through the jungle, and as the friend of every true soldier, I resent the sacrilege, the insult to our dear dead, the vile slander that could only be conceived in the heart of a traiter or find atterance at the lips of a liar. O. M. Osbon.

## The Way to Avoid Heresy Trials.

From the Washington Post.

If clergymen who find that their beliefs have ceased to harmonize with their creed would quietly step down and out, no heresy trials, nor any of the nfelicities attending them, would occur. There are Christian churches, sects and denominations enough in this country to afford a large and varied field of selection for the discontented. Almost every possible variety of religious belief is represented in a creed around which a greater or less number of si cere believers are banded together. And besides this amplitude of opportunity, the discontented reacher has a clear right to start a new sect. In fact his rights are many and important, but they do not actude the right to betray his brethren by violating his ordination vows. They give him no warrant to remain in the pulpit as a fraud or as a preacher of that which his Church regards as false do-